

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

NSC-07 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /052 W

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O 121405Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3963

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGC-OCO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS IMMEDIATE

USELMLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1582

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, GE

SUBJECT: APPREHENSION OF US SOLDIER AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

REF BERLIN 1572

1. U.S. PROTOCOL OFFICER MANAGED, AFTER SOME EFFORT, TO CONTACT HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART ROMANOVSKIY THIS MORNING, AND REPEATED PROTEST AGAINST DETENTION OF MEDLEY AND OUR DEMAND THAT HE BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED. ROMANOVSKIY SAID THAT SOVIET SIDE NEEDED MORE TIME TO INQUIRE INTO DETAILS OF CASE, AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE HEARING ANYTHING FURTHER. HE WOULD GIVE NO INDICATION AS TO IF OR WHEN MEDLEY WOULD BE RELEASED, AND SAID THAT U.S. ACCESS TO HIM WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. WE
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TOLD ROMANOVSKIY THAT THIS WAS UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSE.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP APPROACH AT POLAD LEVEL, APPOINTMENT FOR WHICH MADE AT 4:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER 12. BRITISH AND FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH OUR DEMARCHE.

3. MINOR COVERAGE OF MEDLEY'S APPREHENSION IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WAS BASED LARGELY ON Q AND Q'S REFTTEL, SOME PAPERS REPORTING ALLEGATION THAT MEDLEY WAS ATTEMPTING AN EXFILTRATION. PRESS NOTED US IS IN CONTACT WITH SOVIETS.

4. WE HAVE ONE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN THIS CASE THAT WAS LACKING IN KAPPEL CASE IN THAT WE KNOW AND SOVIETS HAVE ADMITTED THAT MEDLEY HAS BEEN IN SOVIET HANDS SINCE BEGINNING. DURING KAPPEL AFFAIR, SOVIETS TOLD US HE WAS IN HANDS OF GDR AUTHORITIES, WHO WERE COMPETENT IN MATTER. (IT WAS NOT UNTIL KAPPEL DEBRIEFED THAT WE LEARNED HE HAD BEEN IN SOVIET CUSTODY FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE BEING TURNED OVER TO GDR.) WE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS MAY TURN MEDLEY OVER TO EAST GERMANS, BUT SHOULD THEY DO SO, THAT ACTION IN ITSELF WOULD BE GROUNDS FOR PROTEST AND SOVIETS WOULD BE UNABLE TO DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY AS THEY DID WITH KAPPEL. ALSO FACT THAT MEDLEY MEMBER OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MAY BE MINOR ADVANTAGE. WHILE THERE IS NO LEGAL DIFFERENCE IN STATUS OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF FORCES, SOVIETS MAY FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES.

5. USCOB CONCURS.
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NNN

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